

able *rapprochement* towards true *Scolopax*, though we think it best to keep it within the limits of *Gallinago*, its nearest structural allies being *G. stricklandi* and *G. jamesoni*, both of which have short robust tarsi and the tibiæ feathered, as in the present species, nearly down to the tarsal joint. The wings of our single specimen of this bird are not in very perfect condition; but, as far as we can tell, the third and fourth primaries would be rather longer than the first and second, and longest. The secondaries, as in all Snipes, are very long, and in the present bird quite reach to the points of the primaries when the wing is closed. The tail-feathers are likewise deficient, only three of them remaining *in situ*. These show no traces of transverse markings whatever, in which respect this bird is more like true *Scolopax* than *Gallinago*. But there are likewise no traces of the white terminations of the tail-feathers, which are so conspicuous in the Woodcocks.

### 3. Note on *Gyropus dicotylis*, a new Species of Parasite.

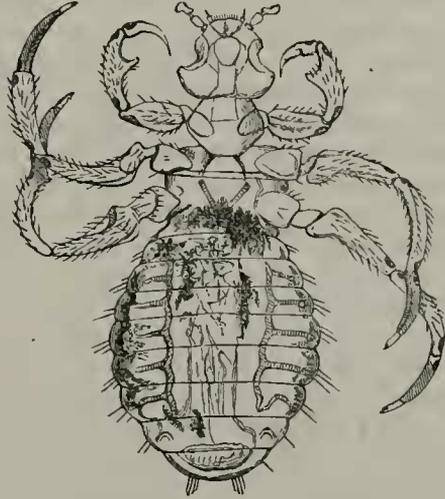
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The specimens of this insect which have been submitted to me were obtained from the skin of a Collared Peccary (*Dicotyles torquatus*) which died in the Dublin Zoological Gardens several years ago; and for the opportunity of examining and describing them I am indebted to Dr. Carte, Director of the Royal Dublin Society's Museum, and to Mr. Kirby, Assistant Curator, who kindly forwarded them to me. As far as I am aware, the species is a new one; and accordingly I have followed the practice usually adopted in the nomenclature of Anoplura and have named the parasite after its host. The specimens submitted to me were ten in number, of both sexes, and had been lying in spirits for some months. They accorded in all respects with the generic character of *Gyropus* given by Nitzsch (*Thierinsekten*, p. 44) and Denny, namely:—head depressed, scale-like, horizontal; frontal and temporal margins sinuated; mouth anterior; mandibles without teeth; maxillæ obscure; labium and labrum produced, trapezoidal, entire; maxillary palpi long, rigid, conical, four-jointed; labial palps none; antennæ four-jointed, capitate; eye inconspicuous or none; thorax of two segments; abdomen of ten segments; tarsi two-jointed, ungues simple; two posterior limbs of each side long, curved to base of femur; stomach symmetrical.

The specimens vary from .15 to .175 of an inch in length, the males being rather longer but narrower than the females. The head is broader than long. The clypeus is not marked with the deep frontal sinuosities which are visible in *G. ovalis* or *gracilis*. The temporal lobes are produced and acute, with their anterior margin slightly

\* Communicated by Dr. J. Murie.

concave, and the posterior convex, the apex of the lobe being directed forwards and outwards. This appearance is similar to the arrangement of these lobes in *G. ovalis* of the Guinea-pig. Frontal margin convex, obtuse, fringed by a few hairs; eye very small, inconspicuous, situated in front of the temporal sinus on the upper surface of a



*Gyropus dicotylis* (magnified).

small eminence, and guarded by a few hairs. Occipital margin convex on either side, slightly concave in the centre, but not nearly so much as in *G. ovalis*. The antennæ have their basal joints cylindrical, large, the second short and rounded, the third club-shaped, the fourth and last is large and dilated, bent upwards and backwards; these joints are well defined, and each one begins extremely narrow. In *G. ovalis* the last joint is securiform; in the present species it is more club-shaped. The maxillary palpi are four-jointed, each joint being more slender than its predecessor, the terminal segment being the smallest, and the third the longest.

The neck is one-third the breadth of the head (one-half in *G. ovalis*). Prothorax hexagonal, flattened, wider transversely than antero-posteriorly, smaller than the head; this segment is longer than the head in *G. longicollis* of the Agouti, but it is equal to it in *G. hispidus* (the parasite of the Three-toed Sloth). There is no trace of the transverse depressed line on the prothorax, which is characteristic of *G. ovalis*. Sternum slightly prominent. The union between the prothorax and the combined meso- and metathorax is of the same size as the neck. This compound segment is quadrilateral, wider behind than in front, and bearing the two posterior pair of legs, between which opens, on each side, a spiracle. It is once and a half the length of the prothorax, and very slightly wider. The first pair of limbs are  $\cdot 05''$  long, with a single incurved unguis. The tibia is armed at the junction of its middle and lower third with a prominent tooth, which

forms with the unguis about two-thirds of a circle. This tooth is capable of being opposed to the claw like a finger and thumb, by which means the parasite can "pick his steps" along a hair, although uninguiculate. In one young specimen this tooth appears as a knob and not as an incurved spine; and it is usually a little sharper in the female than in the male. These processes are frequently noticed among such Anoplura as are parasitic upon bristly animals; thus *Hæmatopinus eurysternus* of the Ox and *H. suis* of the Pig both possess a similar spur. In these, however, the tooth is at the lower end of the tibia, and not removed from it by one-third as in *G. dicotylis*. The lower end of the femur, the upper end of the tibia, the lower end of the latter, and the base of the tarsus are each furnished with a small, brown, oval, transversely striated scale on the extensor aspect. The tarsus is two-jointed, the unguis faintly transversely striated and incurved, ending in a single sharp point. The second pair of legs is twice the length of the first pair, the coxa being short, nearly cylindrical, the trochanter bent almost to a right angle with the femur and contracted at its coxal articulation. The femur is half as long as the entire first limb, slightly curved at its lower end. The tibia is also equally elongated and sharply incurved, destitute of a tooth at its extremity, this appendage being confined solely to the first pair; in this respect it differs strikingly from *Hæmatopinus suis*, in which a tooth exists on the tibia of each of the three pairs of legs. The tibia is garnished with a few scattered hairs, not nearly so numerous as in *G. hispidus* or *G. gracilis*. Unguis curved, triquetrous, transversely striated, twice as large as that of the first pair of legs; its extremity split into two teeth, of which the outer is the longer. The third pair of limbs resemble the second in every respect; and both exhibit the small brown scales, similar to those described on the first pair.

The abdomen is large, flattened and membranous, composed of ten segments, as is usually the case in the genus. Walckenaer, however, only found eight in *G. gracilis*. The first segment is closely united to the metathorax, the last is small and nearly hidden. The central segments are distinctly separate, margins rather acutely toothed, each tooth having a few hairs in its vicinity, not being nearly so pubescent as *G. gracilis* or *G. hispidus*. The male abdomen is oblong and narrow posteriorly; the female abdomen is broadly ovate, more sharply toothed along its margin, with its segments more distinctly separate; trachea distinct and looped.

The species of this genus hitherto described have been found infesting Rodents and Edentates, among which may be mentioned the Agouti, Guinea-pig, and Aï. None, as far as I know, have been found on Pachyderms, with the exception of the present species. The characters which I would suggest as diagnostic of this species are the following:—Frontal outline convex, non-sinuated; last joint of antennæ bent and dilated; no transverse depressed line on prothorax, which is smaller than head; brown scales at bases of tibia, femur, and tarsus; tibia of fore leg with a prominent spur at its lower third, colour ferruginous brown: size  $\frac{1}{7}$  of an inch.

The species of the Pig-family, as far as at present known, are infested by comparatively few parasites, which, when we bear in mind their uncleanly habits and mode of life, is rather singular. Our common Pig has but one parasite, the *Hæmatopinus urius* of Nitzsch, or *H. suis* of Burmeister and Denny.

It is an interesting fact that this genus *Gyropus* seems peculiarly American in distribution: the *G. hispidus* of the Aï, *G. gracilis* and *G. ovalis* of *Cavia cobaya*, and *G. longicollis* of *Dasyprocta* agree with *G. dicotylis* in being from the western hemisphere. All the other species are of minute size, the *Gyropus ovalis* being  $\frac{1}{48}$ "", *G. gracilis*  $\frac{1}{6}$ "", *G. longicollis*  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a French line, *G. hispidus* about the same size. This species, being one-seventh of an inch in length, may fairly be reckoned as a giant in the genus.

#### 4. Descriptions of some Species of Fishes from the Peruvian Amazons. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S., F.Z.S., &c.

Some collections of fishes sent by Mr. E. Bartlett from the Upper Amazons were noticed in Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1866, xviii. p. 30, and in Proc. Zool. Soc. 1868, p. 229. In this paper I intend to describe those species which were brought home by this traveller on his return to England, and which prove to be new. Unfortunately the specimens are not in so good a condition as those previously sent. The proportion of new forms is much less than we might have expected from those almost unexplored parts of the river Amazons, Mr. Bartlett's collections having added only twenty-three species to this fauna. I may mention that the last collection contained also *Sorubim lima* (Bl. Schn.), *Rhytiodus microlepis* (Kner), and *Myletes asterias* (Müll.).

##### MEGALOBRYCON, g. n.

This genus is closely allied to *Bryconops*, from which it is technically distinguished by the presence of a maxillary series of teeth.

Dorsal fin placed in the middle of the length of the body, immediately behind the ventrals. Anal long. Abdomen rounded in front of, and somewhat compressed behind the ventrals. Cleft of the mouth of moderate width. Teeth notched, in a triple series in the intermaxillary, and in a single in the maxillary and mandible; no other teeth behind the mandibular teeth or on the palate. Nostrils close together.—Gill-openings wide. Scales of moderate size, with the free portion striated.

##### MEGALOBRYCON CEPHALUS. (Fig. 1, p. 424.)

D. 11. A. 24–26. L. lat. ca. 70.

The height of the body is one-third of the total length (without caudal), the length of the head one-fourth. Intermaxillary in a triple series, those of the outer series being smallest, about twice as large as those of the maxillary; the front mandibular teeth largest.